



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**JOINT STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND AND NORWAY ON THE OSCE BUDGET  
FOR 2013**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
7 February 2013

**Mr Chairman,**

I would like to make the following interpretative statement on behalf of Switzerland and Norway and according to paragraph IV 1(A) 6 of the OSCE rules of procedure.

We thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the Chair of the ACMF for your tireless efforts to form consensus on the 2013 Unified Budget. We regret, however, that for the first time since 2008 we were unable to adopt the budget in time.

The primary responsibility for the late approval of the budget has to be carried by the Russian Federation. Already in December we had a proposal that represented a compromise that should have been acceptable to all of us.

As we all know, the budget decision was made possible through extrabudgetary contributions from Kazakhstan, Switzerland, Turkey and Norway.

Switzerland and Norway did not contribute because we thought that the project now to be carried out by ODIHR is of particular importance. Nor do we approve of the way in which it has been promoted.

Our primary concern was the detrimental effects to our organization of the situation in which we found ourselves.

We would also like to note that we would have liked to see a more cooperative and pragmatic approach from other participating States which usually share our human dimension priorities.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We live in times of increasing uncertainty. We are faced with challenges in all three dimensions. The OSCE has the instruments to assist us in meeting these challenges. Therefore, we are particularly disappointed with the low level of funding now allocated to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

We are also disappointed that requests for more human resources in some of the field missions in Central Asia were not met.

Looking ahead, we should also make sure that we have the necessary resources to reestablish a presence in Belarus and Georgia and to establish some kind of OSCE presence in Mongolia.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Our organization derives its effectiveness in large part from the expertise and motivation of its staff. The key to maintain a high level of performance is our ability to retain and attract qualified staff. For this reason, we have during the budget negotiations strongly argued in favor of maintaining a remuneration policy that is compatible with those of comparable employers.

**Mr. Chairman,**

10 years ago, in 2003, the OSCE had a budget of 170 million euros. Adjusted for an average consumer price index increase, that would in 2013 amount to approximately 225 million. The budget we have just approved has a balance of less than 145 million.

The OSCE has over these 10 years lost a lot of its strength and capacity. We do not believe this is the direction in which our organization should be going.

Mr. Chairman, I request that this statement be attached to the Journal of today's meeting.

**Thank you.**